

Stream Team Annual Report



2014

promoting citizen
awareness and involvement
in river and stream conservation



It's a canoe and tire convoy! Thanks to the hardworking efforts of Joachim Watershed (Team 4660) and Big River Baggers (Team 4169), there are now fewer tires in the Big River in St. Francois County.

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

It was a milestone year in 2014 as the Stream Team Program celebrated its 25-year anniversary. Teams participated in special “25 Days of Stream Team” events and a proclamation signed by the governor marked 2014 as the “Year of Stream Team.” As Program sponsors we have been proud to see what our volunteers have accomplished through the years and excited to see them continue to grow. It is their continued hard work and dedication that makes the Stream Team Program what it is today.

After 25 years it is hard to believe there are still folks out there who are unaware of Stream Teams and the remarkable work they do, but we continue to add more than a hundred Teams a year. Two hundred and seven new Stream Teams were added in 2014, bringing the total number of Teams to 5,086 with 4,088 still active. With over 80,000 dedicated volunteers statewide, it's hard not to report impressive numbers, so here's a quick look at some of last year's activity totals:

- **872 storm drains** were stenciled or marked.
- **32 rain gardens/barrels** or green roofs were installed.
- Over **\$3 million** worth of volunteer labor was dedicated to our streams.
- Over **371,000 bags** provided by the Stash Your Trash Program were used in litter pickups, by people floating on streams, and during related events.

Our volunteers truly exemplify passion and dedication to Missouri's beautiful water resources!



Stream Team is sponsored by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri

- **496 tons of trash** were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- **981 water quality monitoring trips** were completed.
- **10,963 trees** were planted.



Moberly Middle School students from Stream Team 1086 practiced safety while educating their community about stormwater. The students were very proud of their work . . . and so are we!

Dedication & Enthusiasm

Water Quality Monitoring

The Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) portion of the Stream Team Program is consistently one of the Program's most popular activities. This portion of the Program not only educates Missouri citizens about the condition of our stream resources, valuable water quality data is provided and utilized in a variety of ways.



Ozark Fly Fishers (Team 31) concentrate on picking inverts on one of their regular monitoring trips.

In 2014, VWQM staff members attended the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio to network with Volunteer Monitoring Coordinators from all over the country, and gave presentations on public participation in scientific research (citizen science) and coaching volunteers to obtain meaningful and useful data. Exciting new ideas and technologies are being developed in these areas and the Stream Team Program continues to collaborate with other programs across the nation to provide new opportunities for volunteer monitors.

Staff also developed an Ephemeropatra, Plecoptera, Trichoptera (EPT) Family Level Index using biological samples collected by volunteers. This is the beginning of an effort to develop a mid-level biological assessment index to support the 305(b) water quality report and a screening method to detect impairments to aquatic life in streams.

Additionally, the *Documented Use of Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Data by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources* (MDNR) report was completed. This first-of-its-kind report was written to document volunteer water quality data use by the MDNR. The report also functioned as a direct feedback mode to volunteers about use of their data and will serve as a template for future reports to continue documentation and volunteer feedback.

33 VWQM workshops were held in 2014 across the state at various training levels, and there were three CSI (Cooperative Site Investigation) projects in place during 2014.

- Chloride, sulfate, hardness, and *E. coli* samples were taken on Mattese Creek in St. Louis County in support of the development of a TMDL.
- Chloride, sulfate, and hardness samples were collected on Spencer and Cole Creeks in St. Charles County in support of the development of a TMDL.
- E. coli* samples were collected on Truitt Creek in Lawrence County in support of the development of a TMDL.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	11	267
Level 1	6	76
Level 2	4	38
Level 3	2	2
VWQM Validation	5	23
CSI	5	5
Total	33	411



Our 25th Anniversary Kids Coloring Contest was a huge success. Congrats to our winners who shared "What Stream Team means to me."

Stream Team Awards

Stream Team annually recognizes deserving volunteers from each of the three regions of the state, as well as a statewide VWQM volunteer to receive the Stream Team Ambassador Award. The Ambassador Award recognizes the volunteer's accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals: education, stewardship, and advocacy.

Last year there was also an award given for outstanding work on a CSI Project and the inaugural Outstanding Outfitter Award. The Outstanding Outfitter Award recognizes outfitters that have put forth incredible effort to protect the stream resource and have shown commitment to promoting the goals of the Stream Team Program. The 2014 recipients were:

Stream Team Ambassador Awards

- ♦ Kenneth Thomas III Stream Team 4660—Joachim Watershed
- ♦ Christine Endsley Stream Team 4660—Joachim Watershed
- ♦ Billy Hackett Stream Team 4791—Passion for Green
- ♦ Chris Pistole Stream Team 3714—Wildcat Glades Audubon Center

CSI Ambassador Award

- ♦ Mike Engle Stream Team 4220—Team Sadie

VWQM Ambassador Award

- ♦ Coralyne "Cori" Westcott Stream Team 4343—Grand Glaize Creek

Outstanding Outfitter Award

- ♦ Cherokee Landing

In 2014, Program staff also held a ceremony to honor the newest recipient of the Stream Team Lifetime Achievement Award, Joe Bachant. The

2014 Fast Facts

During 2014, Stream Teams . . .

- collected **496** tons of trash
- planted **10,963** trees
- stenciled **872** storm drains
- conducted **981** water monitoring trips
- gave **97** presentations to other groups
- completed **230** educational events
- reported **132,984** total volunteer hours

Respect

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	15	20	11 agreements	\$461.40
Advocacy	18	160	3 events	\$3,691.20
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	14	32	14 articles	\$738.24
Association Activities	129	1,144	77 events	\$26,392.08
Award Winners	12	35	11 awards	\$807.45
Display at Fairs, etc.	184	911	35 events	\$21,016.77
Educational Projects	3,132	12,414	230 events	\$286,390.98
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	15	50	10 trips	\$1,153.50
Grant Projects	22	59	7 projects	\$1,361.13
Habitat Improvement	336	632	32 projects	\$14,580.24
Inventory Stream & Watershed	2	2	1 inventory	\$46.14
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	7	10	27 letters	\$230.70
Litter Pickups	20,837	93,990	496 tons of trash	\$2,168,349.30
Media Contacts	54	69	28 interviews	\$1,591.83
Meetings (held or attended)	1,446	2,967	1,479 attendees	\$68,448.69
Mentoring	41	89	10 projects	\$2,053.23
Monofilament Recycling Project	21	31	5 ounces	\$715.17
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	391	2,556	66 projects	\$58,966.92
Planted Trees	322	1,431	10,963 trees	\$33,013.17
Pre-activity Planning	523	2,323	204 projects	\$53,591.61
Photo Point Monitoring	16	25	131 photos	\$576.75
Presentations to Other Groups	685	1,561	97 presentations	\$36,012.27
Rain Garden/Barrel or Green Roof	226	738	32 projects	\$17,025.66
Recruitment (new members)	107	121	154 people	\$2,791.47
River Observation (possible pollution event)	4	10	3 projects	\$230.70
Stream Access Maintenance	48	179	27 projects	\$4,129.53
Storm Drain Stenciling	229	775	872 drains	\$17,879.25
Streambank Stabilization Projects	12	54	2 projects	\$1,245.78
Workshops (attended or conducted)	443	3,649	443 attendees	\$84,182.43
Water Quality Monitoring	4,387	6,914	981 trips	\$159,505.98
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	22	33	12 trips	\$761.31
Totals	33,700	132,984		\$3,067,940.88

*\$23.07/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

**Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fundraising, etc.



The Missouri Stream Team Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Joe Bachant. Congratulations Joe, and thank you!

Lifetime Achievement Award was created to recognize people who have made lasting contributions to the Missouri Stream Team Program and the stream resources of the state.

When Joe joined the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1972, he was well aware of the issues that rivers faced. Joe had a vision of empowering citizens with the tools to protect their watersheds. The Conservation Federation of Missouri also understood this need, and agreed to partner in the endeavor from the beginning. With education, stewardship, and advocacy projects from impassioned groups already underway, the Stream Team Program was born!

Even after retirement, he helped the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition in their early efforts and still takes on environmental issues in need of a voice.

Thank you, Joe, for the outstanding contributions you have made toward the health of Missouri streams!

Over
\$3
million!

25-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **20,090** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **297,826** trees
- ◆ stenciled **16,900** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **26,935** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **3,020** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **4,635** educational events
- ◆ reported **2,458,973** total volunteer hours



140 volunteers helped at the annual "Take Pride in Marshall" cleanup in the spring of 2014. These hard workers collected almost a ton of trash!

Accomplishment

Stash Your Trash

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing trash bags to Missouri's float outfitters. In 2014, 142 float outfitters throughout the state participated in the Stash Your Trash Program. Over 371,000 red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the

public, preventing countless tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. Over 21,000 red and green mesh bags and over 5,000 large blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams in their cleanup efforts. To date, more than 5,367,000 bags have been provided to outfitters!



The Shoal Creek Pickers Stream Team 4654 picked Shoal Creek clean in Newton County. Thank you for your amazing efforts!

What's To Come . . .

As we look back on a year focused on celebrating, improving, and maintaining the splendor of our many waterways, we can't help but revel in the outstanding accomplishments of our many volunteers. Stream Team staff thank you for all your time and effort, whether you did a little, a lot, or were only there in spirit at any of the events held last year to celebrate our silver anniversary. As sponsors we will continue to strive at providing new and

interesting activities and workshops to satisfy the never-ending need of our volunteers to do more. This Program is yours and we love hearing your feedback and ideas.

There is no doubt that Stream Teams will continue to find new ways to care for their adopted streams and make positive changes in the resource, proof that our citizens care about clean water. Thank you again for everything you do and, as always, we will see you on the river!

♦ Education ♦ Stewardship ♦ Advocacy ♦

Stream Team Staff



Back row from left: Holly Neill (MSTWC), Randy Sarver (DNR), Sierra Comer (MDC), Susan Higgins (DNR), Mark Van Patten (MDC).
Front row from left: Kat Lackman (MDC), April Perry (MDC), Amy Meier (MDC), Chris Riggert (MDC), Sherry Fischer (MDC). Not shown: Karen Westin (DNR).



The Principia School Environmental Club in St. Louis (Team 3212) does the "benthic boogie" in Grand Glaize Creek to stir up some inverts.



Jim and Julie Lundsted of Team 1417 were recognized for their efforts on Binder Lake with the Citation Award by Jefferson City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry.



Roubidoux Creek had little helpers making a big difference, thanks to Cub Scout Pack 202 of Stream Team 2145.

Questions? Please contact us at:

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